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Rome Dec 26 1821

My dear Maria —

While the Priests were at Christmas Eve. I never felt such
joy as I do now in the hope that I shall soon see & know my
Sister all your care and anxiety for me is done — and all your hopes
fulfilled — I thank God I thank God for this great comfort
in keeping my dear Friends — When I read that any in the Letter
who do the greatest work of all these fine things — "that he is
in his own heart and studies the congratulations of his friends"
I shed tears of joy — not for myself — but for Seigneur for no one
knows or wants as I do what he has suffered — and what he (Severino Tulloch)
has felt for me — what
a man to hope — with a noble estate in prospect — with a glorious
prospect for me — particular when great fortune — fine
education — rank — and all the powerful things have been
against me — When "Rank" forbids to the leading a poor
fellow — without a soul to encourage me — or a friend to
cheer me except this dear Father and his little home
of comfort and peace! How could he — or how could I hope to
be in Rome at the same time of the Pope with a pension — and such a prospect before me as perhaps
no other young man ever had — but I will thank God
for having to a little give me this power over myself &
has given me — Dear dear Maria I did not
think you were all so around my heart — I have no
happiness or care but what is yours —

It damped me a little that I could not be with
you on Christmas Eve — that I could not enjoy all the pleasant
glorious things — and to see him and [illegible] all your happy
faces and to [illegible] my Brothers & Sister & Dear Mary — and hear and
say "God save you" — for although I can see it in these things in my
inside eye and could point to them on [illegible] yet the pleasure

nothing like the reality. — But now for my account — — I had despaired of a letter for many days & for my the Princes near of my poor head the 1st and last thing yesterday letter came — in the day I kept up my spirits by good humour — and near the close of it and Christmas we were part passing — and I thought of the merry Christmas you would all have — yet no news — I went down to dinner where we all dine — every evening about 12 English Artists and in the middle of the dinner — Westmacott the young Sculptor — who is the son of one of the R Academicians — called for a bumper of Warner tongue & toast — when to my great astonishment he gave — "Harris Lacon & the Representatives of the Royal Academy — and success to them" at the 12 drank it most jollily — for every heart has felt for me — and "I sat in my chair and received the congratulations of my Friends" — all this was doing till past for the following days — shortly after I had your letter and the Secretary — so that I began my Christmas day with my own letter in my pocket — Mr Kirkupp an Englishman and dear friend of mine (who introduced me to Lady Westmorland) gave a Capital dinner — to the 12 — with a Plum pudding that could not be excelled by any Christmas I ever had — I forgot to tell you Raisons of sorts — but We had plenty of Music — a Beautiful Piano — and all presents were in the true friendship — Fatherwood was with us — we have had a long talk about you all — he is in good health and spirits — and had written the letters some time back — He is living at present in Lady Westmorlands palace — she is a little fearful of her servants — and wanted me to take up my residence there to keep her Christmas in order

[illegible] to live with [illegible] very [illegible] — but I did not like it — I am so deeply fixed in my Studies that I think of [illegible] nothing else — not even Love — So I asked Father more — he likes it very much — and I [illegible] almost wish [illegible] to [illegible] would be heartracked upon his [illegible] and [illegible] and Master [illegible] by Mistress [illegible] was dead — [illegible] my answer I shocked taken such [illegible] deeply interested [illegible] every thing concerning me — it would delight you much to see her letter about me — She [illegible] is [illegible] for talents and thinks that Lt Thomas [illegible] Lawrence [illegible] when [illegible] confessing about my character — & Maria certainly I was directed by Providence when I came here with pure hearts — for my very Enemies [illegible] well of me on this account — a certain Independence — you will remember — and I know Father — spoke most highly of me to Mr [illegible] and gave the history of my coming here — but not only — I am 5 years [illegible] experience and knowledge — shall ever keep the Key I game to Rouse — it is the general opinion that this Academy has behaved most handsomely [illegible] to me — The pension is nearly 500 £ — they give 105 a year more than any other Student has had — it is 131 £ pounds a year for 3 years — and 20 £ Travelling expences — so that now I'll Father I will be a great painter — I am already far advanced in [illegible] — be [illegible] finished before the Summer — I sent by Jno Wilkie and Bond I write to something that [illegible] the name of Lawrence — very [illegible] again & again — to Father — but mind let it go no further — that my [illegible] Landlord love — Mr Gibbon is going [illegible] manner of an [illegible] Governess — where is Academy [illegible] [illegible] for different [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible]

[illegible] are true with Hatred and Rancour of your own hearts
to make an Establishment in London during the recess in
3 or 4 years. Please God. — It will be transacted. — I am
[illegible] visited by Dutens and Londs. Lord Hardwicke has
said that a copy of the Bible some time since from a Rabbi
is supposed to be original & to be offered me for money
but I have no curiosity for the sight. I have now
great hope of getting plenty of money for my Works
and erasing Luke with a nice frakture but at the
[illegible] Pope Pindar I have for some

[illegible] 1827

[illegible] extra Dessert evening things sent and paid for. Lucky write
again and [illegible] for Mrs Gwatkin for Mrs Prevost to settle with her rent
— keeping further [illegible] for Mrs Hawkins and Cook for my sake. and when
he pleases — and to Maria [illegible] a new feather and Bonnet
— and 1£ to Charles for Ld Liverpool and Maria. — He is
quite at work on my Brothers sticky [illegible] and spirit thing with
God Bless you my dear — My dear Maria I write again soon
with [illegible] to talk the things I want — but answer this
with a [illegible] account of your Christmas. — My love to
Charles — may heaven state bless you for your goodness to me
— remember to be friendly with Mrs Hawkins — Your loving Brother
Charles